

# Vatican Opens Doors for Gay Clergy

The Vatican has officially approved guidelines to allow openly homosexual men to join the priesthood. This is a departure from centuries of "tradition."

#### Pope Francis Encourages Deviant Behavior

After facing global backlash for using a homosexual slur in 2024, Francis doubled down on his inclusive rhetoric. He issued a public apology: "In the [Catholic] church, there is room for everyone... Just as we are."

This laid the groundwork for a change in policy that Francis would soon issue, directing the entire organization to abandon any biblical principles that were left on the subject.

Days after the slur incident, a seminary-hopeful wrote Pope Francis

in dismay at being rejected from a Catholic seminary for being openly gay. The would-be student, Lorenzo Caruso, asked the pope to reconsider the Vatican policy that barred gay men from seminaries. Francis seized this *See Vatican page 3* 



# The Plague of Our Generation

Social contagion sounds like a plague and, in many ways, it is. The concept helps explain the way behaviors, emotions, and ideas spread through social groups, much like a contagious virus. Today, social contagion plays a powerful role in the rise of people promoting and identifying with the LGBTQ agenda.

#### **Behavior Spreads Like Wildfire**

The concept of social contagion has its roots in early research on crowd psychology. Studies revealed that individuals in large groups can influence each other, often **leading to behaviors that differ from what they would do on their own**. Ultimately, ideas and behaviors are spread through imitation. Social contagion is involved in See Generation page 6

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#### BattleCry –

# Why was the Apocrypha in the Original King James Bible?

#### By David W. Daniels

Some are wondering: What are the Apocryphal books? The short answer is they are folktales that the popes needed in the Bible to justify some of their pagan doctrines not supported by Scripture.

During the KJV translation process, Roman sympathizers in the Anglican church pressured the translators to include the stories. The translators severely objected but compromised by inserting them in a separate section between the Testaments, instead of sprinkling them throughout the Old Testament as was customary in Roman Catholic Bibles.

The translators also insisted on giving their project overseers seven objections

to including the Apocrypha at all:

1. Not one of them is in the Hebrew language, which was alone used by the inspired historians and poets of the Old Testament.

2. Not one of the writers lays any claim to inspiration.

3. These books were never acknowledged as sacred Scriptures by the Jewish Church and, therefore, were never sanctioned by our Lord.

4. They were not allowed a place among the sacred books, during the first four centuries of the Christian Church.

5. They contain statements which contradict the canonical Scriptures as well as other apocryphal writings. For example, in the two Books of *See Apocrypha page 3* 

# God Doing the "Impossible" with Mission Possible

Mission Possible is a life-changing ministry dedicated to reaching those behind bars. For decades, they've been delivering Chick tracts, Bibles, and Christian resources to chaplains nationwide, empowering them to minister to inmates and bring the light of Christ into the darkest places.

One chaplain recently sent Mission Possible director Jo Anna Woody a powerful testimony:

"I want to personally thank you for the tracts you send. They draw the boys like a magnet. **Chick tracts are awesome—they get read!** Young men get saved from reading these tracts. By God's grace, we're seeing an average of **10 professions of faith every week** across all facilities.

"You'll sometimes have young men who commit murder during the week, and by Sunday morning, they're sitting in front of you, eager to hear the gospel. That's an opportunity! And we give it to them, praise God. After service, we give out the Chick comic books you send, as well, so they have something more to read."

Another chaplain shared:

"Prison chaplains have the chance to minister to inmates and show them God's love. **His light breaks through the darkness**, reaching the lonely, rejected, and broken. Chaplains listen to the angry, the frightened, the hurting and challenge them to confront deep, often ignored, spiritual issues."

Another chaplain shared how Biblebased resources from Mission Possible are making a real difference:

"We thank you for sending the boxes of Chick Tracts. These are always desired, not only because of being easy to read, but because many who are incarcerated really want to hear the *See Impossible page 7* 

### Vatican from page 1

opportunity and personally wrote back to Caruso. He told him to continue pursuing the priesthood, rather than pointing him to scripture.

This message goes directly against biblical standards but reflects Francis's social agenda. Less than eight months later, he would officially direct the entire Catholic organization to accept gay men with open arms into seminaries and the priesthood.

#### Francis Leads Charge Away from Scripture

At the Italian Bishops' Conference on January 10, 2025, Francis made his move. He issued an official order stating that men who claim a deviant lifestyle are now welcome to enter seminary and pursue the priesthood as long as they commit to "a chaste, celibate life." His guidelines instruct admission officers to focus instead on the candidate's *personality* and ability to live according to Catholic church teachings on celibacy. Apparently, **living according to** *biblical* **standards is no longer required.** 

The LGBTQ+ community praised the move as a "big step forward." However, many Catholics woke up to the fact that their leader doesn't speak for God after all. Critics of the decision lament the change in "tradition" and the lack of commitment to biblical marriage. They also fault Francis's promotion of the climate change agenda, a one-world government, and "social justice."

Now, many Catholics are left wondering where they can go for truth and teachings that are consistent with the Bible.

#### The Bible Remains Unchanging

Chick Publications has long maintained that Roman Catholicism is not a legitimate Christian church. Its history of persecution of Bible believers over the centuries does not square with scripture. This **sacrifice of biblical truth in order to follow sinful social trends** proves that it is just a counterfeit "church." Its constant maneuvering for political power earns the designation in the Book of Revelation as the prostitute that all the nations have whored with.

The Vatican may change its stance to appease modern opinions, but **the Bible remains unwavering**. God's Word is clear and timeless. Scripture does not change. Institutions of men may bend to societal pressures. But Bible-believing Christians must never compromise biblical truth. In the end, it's not man's ever-changing doctrines that define biblical faith, but adherence to God's unchanging commands. **The Bible is the standard we must live by, not the opinions of men or the whims of society.** 

# Apocrypha from page 2

Maccabees, Antiochus Epiphanes is made to die three different deaths in as many different places.

6. It supports unbiblical, Catholic doctrines that disagree with the Bible, such as purgatory, prayers for the dead (2 Maccabees) and sinless perfection. It also promotes works-based salvation and contradicts biblical teaching that clearly states salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone in Christ alone.

7. It teaches immoral practices, such as lying, suicide, assassination, and magical incantation.

The Apocrypha is filled with concepts that **directly contradict the message of the gospel** and the sufficiency of Christ's atoning work. By including these doctrines, the Apocrypha encourages practices and beliefs that detract from a biblical understanding of salvation.

When they translated the books, the See Apocrypha page 7

# **Teens: The Most Open Generation**

It might come as a surprise, but of all generations, **today's teens are the most open to learning about Jesus**. A recent report from pollster Barna shows that a whopping 77% of teens are motivated to learn more about Jesus in their lifetime. And this number includes teens who don't identify as Christian! Gen Zs are curious about Jesus and are asking big questions about faith and the meaning of life.

#### **Frustration Across Generations**

Teens are spiritually curious, but many are hesitant to embrace traditional religion and churchgoing. Many teens view church as irrelevant to their daily struggles and are looking for something real. They don't just want a routine, a program, or fancy music and lights. They're looking for real, honest conversations about faith and dialogue about how the gospel applies to life in an authentic, personal way. And teens aren't the only ones.

Unmet expectations have become a defining trait of modern life. From retirees to school children, each generation holds a sense of disappointment and disconnection with the world around them. Many of today's retirees bought into the American Dream only to find that wealth didn't fulfill. Their children grew up as latchkey kids where mom's and dad's career came before family; they've been impacted by that imbalance ever since.

Many working adults feel like the American Dream might be dead. Teens and young adults live online and feel more isolated than ever. And now, the youngest up-and-coming generation, at the ripe old age of 13, finds themselves growing up in a world where tech dominates daily life and interpersonal relationships aren't valued.

Every generation is discovering the same truth: the world doesn't deliver. But the good news is that **the Bible has the answer.** 

# Finding "The One" Open to the Gospel

Jesus' ministry was focused on finding *the one*—the one out of many who was seeking the gospel. As Bible-believing Christians, we have an opportunity to do the same.

Chick Publications has always been a firm believer in scattering the gospel seed as far and wide as possible to find *the one* open to the gospel. Individuals and missionaries have used this method with great effect to reach millions worldwide with the truth and hope of eternal life. We often hear how one tract led to a conversation which led to a person getting saved.

Tracts are a perfect jumping-off point for conversations about the stories inside, but it's vital that we understand the gospel. If the gospel is not clearly communicated, then the conversations which lead to salvation after someone reads a tract might not occur.

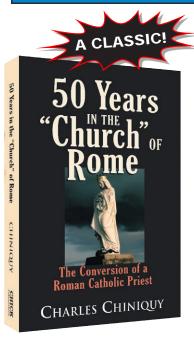
Knowing the gospel inside and out helps us speak clearly and with conviction, answering doubts and questions along the way. We can then share with confidence the hope and truth that leads to salvation.

#### We Have a Job to Do

While teens may be the most spiritually open, all generations are looking for hope. We clearly have a job to do. Whether it's passing out tracts in a coffee shop, engaging in an afterwork discussion, or sharing the hope of Jesus in a casual encounter on the street, the gospel can reach people who are yearning for meaning and purpose.

The need for gospel sharing has never been greater. Let us not miss the opportunity to meet people where they are—just as Jesus did—and lead them to the hope that only He can provide.

# No one knows the Catholic Church like a priest.



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## Generation from page 1

everything from widespread acceptance of fashion trends to the adoption of new behaviors. The latest example of this wildfire-type spread is in the increasing identification of individuals as LGBTQ+, a trend that has grown quickly, especially in younger generations.

#### Gen Z Led into LGBTQ Identity

Gen Z (13-25 year olds) is the most digitally connected of any generation. Unfortunately, this makes them easy pickings for LGBTQ "influencers" who want to shape their minds and influence their morals.

At every level, LGBTQ activists push the acceptance of deviant sexual behavior and the ideas of multiple gender orientations and gender fluidity. Children and teens who follow these influencers **are encouraged to mimic** the behaviors, attitudes, and emotions of pro-LGBTQ peers, celebrities, or online communities. The desire to fit in then drives them to **adjust their behavior to gain approval**.

Once they've taken the bait, influencers continue to target the younger group emotionally. They are instructed to not just accept deviant behavior, but to be proud of it and promote it to their friends and social groups.

Platforms like Instagram, TikTok, and Twitter have made LGBTQ identities more visible and have created spaces for young people to explore and be influenced by those who promote these identities. And all of this is done away from the eyes of parents and guardians who could speak truth into the lies they're being fed.

#### LGBTQ Identification Becomes "Popular"

Recent Gallup surveys highlight a

sharp increase in the number of people identifying as LGBTQ. In 2024, Gallup found that 9.3% of U.S. adults identified as LGBTQ, up from 5.5% in 2020. **That's nearly one in ten adults**!

However, when looking at Gen Z, the statistics become even crazier. **More than one in five Gen Z adults** (23.1%) identify as LGBTQ. In contrast, 14.2% of millennials, 5.1% of Gen X, 3% of Baby Boomers, and 1.8% of the Silent Generation identify as LGBTQ. The Gen Z shift is particularly significant among women. Nearly 33%, or 1 in 3, identify as LGBTQ, compared to just 12% of Gen Z men.

David Closson, director of the Center for Biblical Worldview, spoke about the drastic rise in identification. "I'm not surprised... Every cultural institution, whether it's the arts ... [or] higher education is pushing this agenda. **There's a social contagion that is fueling those numbers**."

Because of the intense social promotion, more young people view the LGBTQ community as something popular they want to join, creating a cycle where LGBTQ identification becomes more normalized and widespread.

#### Truth Stronger than "Identity"

Social contagion can cause entire generations to abandon the truth that was once commonly accepted. But the truth of the Bible is more powerful than "influencers" and is certainly more than a passing trend. As usual, the Bible has a simple statement: "*Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil*" Exodus 23:2.

As we stand firm in Bible truth, let us be ready to give an answer for the hope that is in us when people of all generations begin asking what makes us so very different from the world.

# Impossible from page 2

things they didn't want to hear before, and they are curious enough about these tracts to pick them up and read them. Many are in this place for the first time, and they are looking for a way to change. Chick tracts get straight to their need to repent and forsake their sin by turning to Jesus Christ who is the only Way to victory."

As our culture drifts further from Biblical teachings, the need for spiritual resources in prisons grows. In fact, a Texas chaplain recently shared that he's seeing the largest crowds of his career gathering to study Scripture!

Soul winners and chaplains face an overwhelming demand for Bibles and tracts. That's where Mission Possible steps in by providing them with Chick tracts and resources otherwise out of reach due to tight budgets.

Thanks to the generosity of Chick customers who send extra funds to support this ministry, Mission Possible delivered 5,384 Bibles, 111,425 tracts, 8,428 comic books, and 5,865 additional resources—like commentaries and Bible dictionaries—to prison chaplains in 2024.

Jo Anna's gratitude goes deep. "I love you all so much and **pray that you have an understanding just how much you are getting done for God's Kingdom** here on earth! It is amazing the life changing materials that are being sent out each month to help reach lost inmates with the Gospel. One 'THANK YOU' is not enough, so here's three – THANK YOU! THANK YOU!! THANK YOU!!!"

Chick Publications maintains a standing account for Mission Possible where people can make donations to purchase tracts. Or, you can contact Jo Anna Woody at: **352-464-4448**.

Her mailing address is: *Mission Possible* 

PO Box 2728

Dunedin, FL 34697

### Apocrypha from <u>page 3</u>

KJV translators were careful to **clearly separate the Apocrypha from the text of the Bible**. They put it in a separate section between the Old and New Testaments and clearly labeled each page, "Apocrypha." The last page of II Maccabees in the 1611 King James reads, "End of Apocrypha." Then it returns to God's inspired words in Matthew.

As the Bible went into multiple printings, the Apocrypha was dropped as early as 1616! There wasn't any Apocrypha in many printings of the Bible, dated 1616, '18, '20, '22, '26, '27, '29 and '30.<sup>1</sup>

One historian wrote: "The aversion

had so prevailed that the Apocrypha began to be dropped ... indeed, as early as 1633, such Bibles [without Apocrypha] were becoming fashionable....<sup>22</sup>

I agree with the King James translators. The Apocrypha does not belong in the Bible. The Apocrypha is a collection of folk tales and legends, not inspired Scripture. **These stories cannot be trusted as divinely inspired**, nor do they carry the authority of the 66 books of the canonical Bible. They should not be relied upon as the authoritative Word of God.

We can be confident that we have all of God's words to us in the 66 Books of our King James Bible, *without the Apocrypha*.

<sup>1</sup> See The Oxford Annotated Apocrypha, Expanded Edition by Bruce Metzger (1965, 1977), p. xviii.

<sup>2</sup> Our English Bible: Its Translations and Translators, by John Stoughton (London: William Rider and Son, pub. 1882-1885), p. 271. Available at archive.org.

#### BattleCry -

# **Tools For Winning the Witnesses**

#### By Daniel Rodriguez

Covid-19 impacted countless lives and organizations, including the Jehovah's Witnesses and their Watchtower Society. For a few years, their door-to-door campaigns, came to an abrupt halt. The weekly meetings at the Kingdom Halls worldwide were suspended. Life as they knew it ceased. But now, they are back —and in force.

Covid was also a time that ushered in dramatic civil and political unrest. The Watchtower organization jumped on these events to push fear, one of the main components of recruitment, and it worked. Before Covid, the Watchtower boasted around 8.5 million Jehovah's Witnesses worldwide. They ended 2024 with just under 9.1 million and growing.

#### See JWs as a Mission Field

The Witnesses have resumed going door-to-door as well as setting up information tables in airports, community parks, colleges, street corners —wherever they can establish a foothold. They stand unchallenged with a message that masquerades as the gospel. For the Bible-believing soul winner, these info booths represent a mission field. The resurgence in JW activity is our chance to spread seeds of doubt about the Watchtower's claims to be God's representative here on earth.

Over 70% of Jehovah's Witnesses are former Christians or Catholics. Many turn to this false religion after becoming disillusioned in their walk with Christ. At the outset, an organization which is highly structured and organized sounds appealing. However, many soon learn that the comfort of that structure only leads to spiritual bondage. By then, they're sucked in, thinking there is no way out.

#### **Challenge Common Beliefs**

One of the most important tools in your witnessing toolbelt is helping a

Jehovah's Witness start to think for himself. Witnesses are taught to rely completely on the *Watchtower*. The *Watchtower* is a monthly magazine that serves as an official, approved "study tool" for JWs. They are told that the *Watchtower* is to be trusted completely, and that all of their Bible questions can be answered in this publication alone. In fact, they are conditioned to trust this publication even more than the Bible.

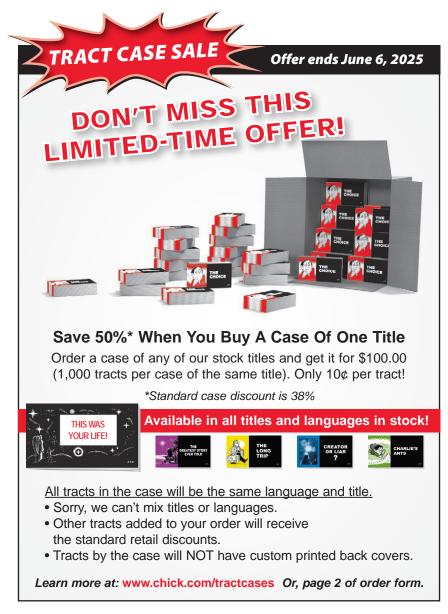
Because of this, helping Jehovah's Witnesses to think for themselves is a critical step in the process of sharing the gospel. By dismantling their trust in the *Watchtower*, you cut off the very source that feeds them with false beliefs.

By introducing ideas that they may have never considered before, doubt about *Watchtower* claims will start to unravel their trust in the organization. Once you help the Witness see that the *Watchtower* is not inspired and inerrant, they'll be open to hearing directly from the Bible since they do consider it inspired.

• • • •

*Editor Comment:* As with witnessing to anyone involved in a religion that forms their entire identity, effectively sharing the gospel requires some learning and practice. Veteran soul winner Daniel Rodriguez has spent years witnessing to the Witnesses and winning many to Christ. In fact, his witnessing strategy is so effective that he has written it down for others to learn from and follow.

As a result of Christians adopting Rodriguez' soul winning steps, many Jehovah's Witnesses have turned away from the organization and accepted the true gospel of Jesus Christ. Many readers have written to Daniel, sharing how they followed the steps he taught and how the lives of their friends and family members were changed as a result.



### Witnesses from page 8

Daniel's book, *Winning the Witnesses*, will challenge your approach in reaching these dear people for Christ, and will equip you with proven witnessing strategies.

Instead, you'll be equipped to expose the lies they have been taught and create doubt in the source which feeds their beliefs. Once the common barriers to belief are removed, you'll find your gospel presentation to have much more of an impact in their thinking.

Will you answer Jesus' call to "go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature?" (Mark 16:15) An opportunity to do so might just present itself at your front door. With Rodriguez' book, you can stand at the ready, equipped with the tools you need to make that happen.

# **Missions Fund Report**

Many of you want to provide Chick tracts for missions. We hear from a lot of missionaries, and know how to get the tracts into their hands, so we formed the Chick Mission Fund. Through your giving, the Chick Mission Fund has already put <u>62 million</u> Chick tracts on the field.

If you are subscribed to the Chick newsletter, you receive weekly updates. But just in case you are not, we will brief you here on what has happened since the last printed newsletter.

#### Colombia

The 10,000 Chick tracts for Missionary Mark Gerosin in Colombia finally cleared customs and were delivered (it's always a challenge). He has begun to use them, and immediately asked when he could receive more. As you continue giving, we plan to keep him supplied!

#### Papua New Guinea

One hundred sixty-five thousand Chick tracts, in Pidgin and English, have been printed and delivered to the warehouse where they will be loaded into a container headed for Papua New Guinea for Missionary Kenneth Seremak. He serves in the Western Highlands, in Mt. Hagen, where he teaches in a Bible institute that trains new pastors in evangelism. The Chick tracts you have sent will give these workers prime tools that anyone will read.

See Missions page 12



This young man in Colombia just received a Chick tract from Mark Gerosin. They always stop to read them!

# MANY CHRISTIANS WANT TO PROVIDE CHICK LITERATURE TO MISSIONARIES.

# WE CAN HELP!

Although we are not legally structured to give tax-deductible receipts, we definitely know how to get literature into missionaries' hands. If you would like to help extend the hands of a missionary with Chick literature, please send your donation to:

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You can also give on our website:

### www.chick.com/missionfund

**100% OF THE MONEY** YOU SEND TO THE CHICK MISSIONS FUND IS USED TO SHIP LITERATURE TO MISSIONARIES.



# WILL YOU HELP?

We receive requests frequently from missionaries who need your help. Just during the last 12 months, shipments have been provided for:

ARGENTINA	ETHIOPIA	KENYA	SCOTLAND
AUSTRALIA	FRANCE	KOREA	SPAIN
BELGIUM	GERMANY	MEXICO	THAILAND
BRAZIL	GREECE	MOZAMBIQUE	UKRAINE
CANADA	GUATEMALA	NEW ZEALAND	UNITED
CHILE	GUYANA	NORWAY	KINGDOM
COLOMBIA	HONDURAS	PAPUA NEW	VENEZUELA
DOMICAN	ISRAEL	GUINEA	ZAMBIA
REPUBLIC	ITALY	PHILIPPINES	ZIMBABWE
ECUADOR	JAPAN	PORTUGAL	

More tracts are now being shipped for additional projects, with more requests coming in from missionaries!

# Missions from page 10

#### Greece

Fifty thousand Greek "This Was Your Life" have now cleared customs and have been delivered to a Romanian missionary couple in Attiki, Emanuel and Tereza Negru. They lead a team that travels the country, preaching and passing out Chick tracts in markets and village centers. They are excited to have this "ammunition," and are asking for more!

#### **Philippines**

The 6<sup>th</sup> container of Chick tracts is now at sea, on the way to Manila. Once there, they will be sorted and the tracts shipped by truck and ferry to 140 missionaries and the ministries they recommend, all over the country! We have never seen more openness to street witnessing than we see in the Philippines today.

See Missions page 13



Loading the 6th container headed for the Philippines

### Missions from page 12 Honduras

Missionary Lacy Wheeler requested 400,000 Chick tracts to be included in a container he is sending to his partners in Honduras. They already used the first 200,000 sent, and the churches are now begging for more! Many of you have already given toward this project, and we have begun printing the first 100,000 tracts, Spanish "This Was Your Life." As you continue to give, there will be six more titles to follow.

When the first container arrived, 26 pastors came with cars and pickups to get Chick tracts so their congregations can hit the streets for Jesus (pictured below). Then, they went door to door, doing the Master's business, like in the next picture.

See Missions page 14



It's wonderful, how people everywhere will let you pray for them.

# Missions from page 13

#### Azores

In June, Missionary Brian Green of Seed for the Cities will bring a team to the Azores, a group of islands in the mid-Atlantic which are actually part of Portugal. Thanks to your faithful giving, there are now 50,000 Portuguese tracts in storage there, waiting for the team to bring the Gospel message to homes in seven of these islands.

#### Mauritius

Missionary James Herringson has now received the 10,000 French "This Was Your Life" that you provided for him. This is not their first shipment, and as they have been using the tracts, they have seen people come to the Lord.

#### **Current Needs**

At this time, we have two large projects with which we still need help.

First is the Honduras project. Missionary Lacy Wheeler needs 400,000 tracts to go into a container he is sending to his evangelism partners here. We currently have received about half of the funding, so we have started printing for him. As God leads you to help, we can finish this project.

Also, Missionary Joe Hendrigsman (Oaxaca, Mexico) has a huge network of churches that come to him for Bibles and Chick tracts. We have sent them over a million in the past, and they used them all. Now they are asking for a full trailer -2,400,000 Chick tracts (that's over 23 tons!). Will you help?



Wouldn't you love to accept a Chick tract from this beautiful, smiling group of young people who help Missionary Gerald Sutek give the gospel to people in their cars?

# Letter From David W. Daniels

Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

The world is changing, this time for the better —*do you notice the shift*?

The youth are beginning to *listen* and *ask questions*. They want more in life than what they see waiting for them. Unfulfilled promises, fake government utopias, protests that look like grown ups having nursery-school temper tantrums —have only left them wanting something *else*.

#### And we're sitting on it!

We have the gospel that will 1) forgive all their sins, 2) save their souls, 3) secure heaven eternally, and 4) give them purpose *in this life*. Let's not delay! Let's get out tracts that speak to young people.

Let's pray and ask God for guidance. And let's get those tracts into the hands of as many young people as possible. Have a *variety*, so they can choose whichever grabs their attention. Two great titles for teens are It's All About You and Baby Talk.

Sometimes I see young people and I pray quickly and get a tract, or several, in my hands. Then —I **talk** to them and ask if they'd like a tract. The worst that can happen is they say "No." The best that can happen is you help add another soul to Christ's Kingdom.

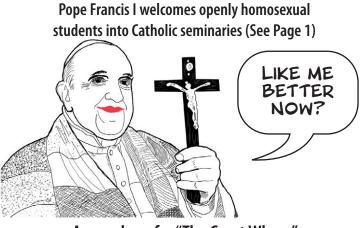
Now is the perfect time! Let's get the gospel out to these youth! God's good fruit will flow into the next generation. Go for it!

In Christ Jesus,

David Daniele

### **A Better Shipping Option**

We have been having some difficulty with Priority Mail. For those who need their order in a hurry, we have arranged a great new shipping option with Fedex. If you provide a street address (not a PO box) when you call to place an order, you will be offered Fedex 2-3 Day shipping for the *same or less* than Priority Mail. Since we started this, it has been incredibly popular.



## A new dress for "The Great Whore" (Revelation 17:1; 19:2)





Your back cover will be in two colors, black plus the second color of the tract you choose.

**BATTLE CRY** 

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